

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 24 – 38 and add new claims 39 – 41 as follows:

Claims 1 – 38 canceled.

39. (New) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys such that the reinforcing member is curved and has a circumferential width when the stent is in the contracted condition;

each reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration essentially parallel to the longitudinal stent axis when the stent is in the contracted condition; and

the serpentine pattern having varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around a circumference of the cylindrical elements during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition;

wherein the circumferential width of each reinforcing member is smaller than the width of the peak or valley it extends across;

wherein each of the alternating peaks and valleys has one of said reinforcing members extending across its width.

40. (New) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys such that the reinforcing member is curved and has a circumferential width when the stent is in the contracted condition;

each reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration essentially parallel to the longitudinal stent axis when the stent is in the contracted condition; and

the serpentine pattern having varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around a circumference of the cylindrical elements during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition;

wherein the circumferential width of each reinforcing member is smaller than the width of the peak or valley it extends across;

wherein the interconnecting member connects a reinforcing member of a valley of one cylindrical element with a valley of an adjacent cylindrical element.

41. (New) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys such that the reinforcing member is curved and has a circumferential width when the stent is in the contracted condition;

each reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration essentially parallel to the longitudinal stent axis when the stent is in the contracted condition; and

the serpentine pattern having varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around a circumference of the cylindrical elements during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition;

wherein the circumferential width of each reinforcing member is smaller than the width of the peak or valley it extends across;

wherein the reinforcing member is comprised of a first quarter turn that transitions into a half turn, which transitions into a second quarter turn.